



## CITY OF SALEM FOOD DRIVE HELPS STOCK SHELVES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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Carey Harveycutter and Linda Carroll have important jobs in the City of Salem, but this Holiday Season their hearts are bigger than their positions.

The two longtime city employees were recently inspired to help those less fortunate in the community by organizing a food drive to assist the Salem-Roanoke County Food Pantry. Harveycutter, Salem's Director of Civic Facilities, is also a board member at the Food Pantry and knows all too well what happens when the economy heads south.

"I know the need is great because we have been up 50 percent a month in people seeking and receiving food from the Food Pantry," says Harveycutter. "The first families to get hurt are the ones hit hardest by the recession, and unfortunately they are the last ones to bounce back."

The Salem-Roanoke County Food Pantry has seen its "help list" swell to as many as 31 families a day recently, an extremely high number considering the facility is only open four hours a day.

"The Food Pantry did a presentation at Salem Kiwanis and I was inspired by the need and just wanted to see if my fellow employees would come together and help others," says Carroll, Salem's Commissioner of the Revenue. "I am extremely pleased with the amount of food we collected, but we need to continue giving after January 1<sup>st</sup> when the Food Pantry needs the most help."

City employees from 19 different departments collected 2,347 and a half pounds of food to help fill the Pantry's shelves.

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